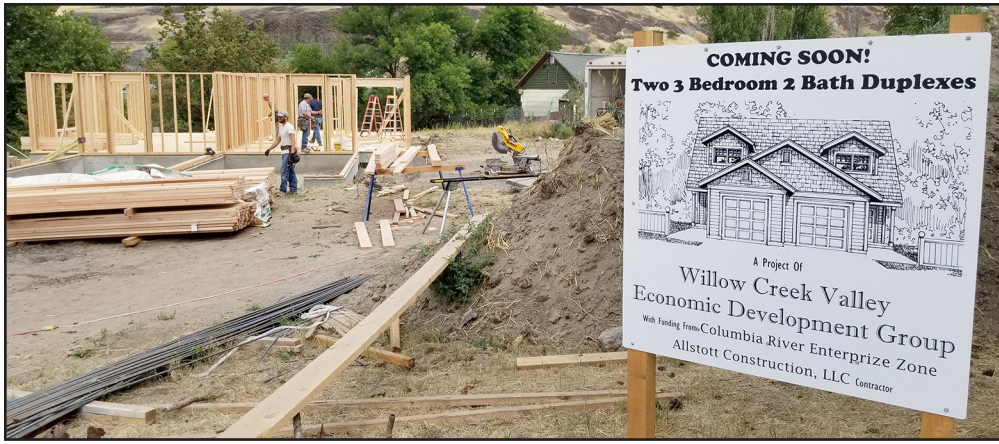


Construction begins on new duplexes



Builders work on the new duplexes being built on Cowin Street in Heppner. The two three-bedroom two bath duplexes are a project of the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) with funding from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone. Local contractor Dave Allstott is the builder on the project. So far, the foundations have been laid and the framing is now going up. A completion date or expected rents for the new units has not been announced by WCVEDG yet. -Photo by David Sykes.

County asks Navy's help with bombing range predator control

Adjacent cattle operators seeing losses

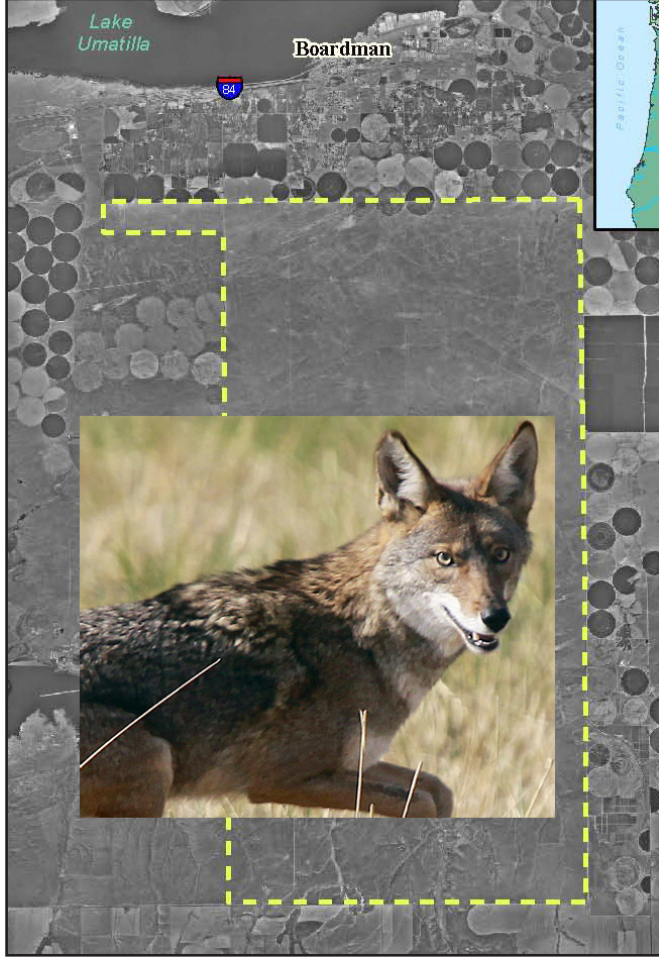
By David Sykes

Morrow County has contacted the Navy about cooperation in more predator control on the bombing range near Boardman. The 47,000-acre bombing range is apparently a prime habitat for coyotes which have been crossing over onto private ranches and killing and harassing livestock.

At a July 10 meeting the Morrow County Commissioners discussed its current contract with the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services division for predator control in Morrow County. Wildlife Services uses various means to control predators in the county but apparently does not go onto the Bombing Range. Commissioners are hoping the Navy will allow Wildlife Services access to the range for predatory control. In the past the Navy has been less than cooperative in helping with the predatory control.

In a memorandum Wildlife Services said this past winter on properties close to the Bombing Range there were 13 calves killed by coyotes on four different ranches. One dog was also attacked and a small group of sheep were being harassed by coyotes. Most of the losses were reported north of the range on the outskirts of Boardman. Wildlife Services says it took out 32 coyotes, stopping further livestock losses.

The bombing range is a large unoccupied tract of land and predators use the land to escape humans. It is also used as a denning area for coyotes raising pups. The pups will disperse to adjacent properties once they come of age and the



coyotes will also travel long distances to hunt and cross over to adjacent properties.

Wildlife Services said livestock producers, landowners and sport hunters can all benefit from them being granted access to the bombing range to manage the coyotes. The service uses trapping, aerial hunting, calling, spotlighting and specially trained dogs to help locate predators.

The commissioners sent a letter to the commanding officer of the Naval Air Station at Whidbey Island, WA asking for more cooperation with predator control "while not interfering with training missions." The bombing range is used as a training ground for testing the EA-18G Growler aircraft and for drone testing.

The county has a con-

tract with Wildlife Services for predator control at \$60,000 per year.

JP retiring

In other business at the meeting Justice of the Peace Ann Spicer said she would be retiring before the end of her elected term. The commission will then send suggested names for her replacement to the governor's office where an appointment will be made. The appointed person will service for one year and then run in the primary election in May. If there is more than one candidate and one of them gets 50 percent or more of the votes, they will be in the position. If they get less than that they will then have to have a run-off election with the top two vote getters in the Novem-

-See PREDATORS/PAGE SEVEN

Lions club rifle winner announced



The winner of this year's Heppner Lions Club rifle raffle was Brian Kollman, who took home a Savage 6.5 Creedmore with a 3x9 Nikon Scope. He is presented here with his prize by Lions president Alan Scott. The club raffles off a rifle each year with the proceeds used towards scholarships for local students and the Lions Sight and Hearing fund.

Bryant Foundation donates to Hospice Program

The Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation recently donated four wheelchairs to the Morrow County Health District Hospice volunteer program. These wheelchairs will support the program's mission to ensure its patients' physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs are met at end of life.

"Our goal as Hospice volunteers is to help maintain and improve the quality of life of our community members alongside the necessary clinical care provided by Morrow County Health District's Home Health and Hospice," Cyde Estes, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator remarks. "Many Hospice patients become homebound because it is not easy or safe for the family or volunteers to take them out. Having a lightweight wheelchair can make a wonderful difference in the quality of their lives and improve their safety. This donation helps us achieve this and we are incredibly grateful."

The Howard and Beth Bryant Foundation helps



Pictured with a donated wheelchair: Caroline Jackson, Director of MCHD Home Health and Hospice and Kim Cutsforth, Director of HBB Foundation.

support the Heppner community through purposeful giving and active engagement. Donations to the local Hospice program is one of many projects the fund has contributed to.

Hi! Welcome to Morrow County



A local rancher sent in this photo of a wolf to the Heppner Gazette-Times. It was taken with a trail camera at his Gurdane pasture. Gurdane is about 22 miles east of Heppner and is located in Umatilla County. However, the photo was taken just inside the Morrow County line. It was taken in May of this year.

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